

Natural Resources Interim Committee

Treasure Valley Aquifer Working Group

Majority Caucus Room, Capitol - Boise, Idaho

July 20, 2004 - 9:30 am

Committee Members in attendance:

Representative Mike Moyle, Chairman
Senator Brad Little
Representative Darrell Bolz

Committee Members absent:

Senator John Andreason
Representative Lawrence Denney

Others in attendance:

See attached attendance sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Representative Moyle at 9:30 am.

Scott Rhead, United Water - Information on the Municipal Perspective.

His presentation covered the following topics:

- Existing conditions
- Future expectations
- Restrictions/Competing factors
- Solutions/Strategies for success

They currently have 13 municipal systems and 130 HOA (Home Owners Associations)
97% of Ada County & 60% of Canyon County served by municipal suppliers.

United Water supplies: 90% groundwater & 10% surface water.

Boise area North of river has no ground water (high fluoride or high temperature).

The bench also has water quality problems.

The Columbia water treatment plant expected to come on line June 1, 2005 - target volume is 5000 acre feet.

By 2025 Ada County will be totally urbanized.

By that time conjunctive management will be necessary.

Some discussion on the possibility of offering credit for return flows.

Mr. Rhead discussed customer demand from the aspects of Ground water, Natural surface

Flow, Aquifer storage and recovery, and Contract storage.

United Water currently is renting 2200 acre feet of surface water on short term basis -

Would like to have on long term basis.

Considers additional storage as a possible help to the problem.

One problem with ground water is the expense of getting it where it is needed - thus the need for surface water to meet needs.

Mr. Rhead indicated that municipal surface water needs are real.
P & Z development ordinances need amended.

Gary Speckman, IDWR - Status of Water Right processing in the Lower Boise River Basin

1963 - 1971: mandatory permitting

1977: Water above reservoir fully appropriated (IDWR) - consumptive use above Lucky Peak

1992: Moratorium on both ground and surface water appropriations.

1995: Opened up permitting Boise and some other areas.

1996: Closed SE Idaho to appropriation (IDWR Director - by Memorandum)

Currently over 400+ applications (8-10 year wait) Some of these applications are from drought year application.

Use mitigation to solve the problem.

I.C. 42-111 (Domestic Exemption) - is the root of the problem - the question is how to Enforce this statute.

Jerry Gregg, Snake River Area Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - The role of water storage in meeting future water needs.

Water basin - 103, 200 square miles

87% of Idaho

3,918,000 irrigated acres

1.9 million acres supply the system

Boise watershed - 2680 square miles

2,070,000 acre feet of water

300,000 acres (360,000 acres in the valley)

Total storage (includes Lake Lowell) - 1,109,065 acre feet

Gross annual diversion = 2,000,000 acre feet

Net annual diversion = 1,500,000 acre feet

1/4 of diverted water goes back as return flow

Water studies from the 1960's have been continuous - 414 sites in Snake River Basin.

Moore's Hollow Dam and Reservoir - 1996-1997

Owyhee Project

Black Canyon Dam modification

Ada/Canyon County DCMI (Domestic, Commercial, Municipal, Industrial Study
- 2001

Planning Program:

Anderson Ranch - 2 options: (1) raise 6 feet (2) raise 12 feet

Study currently has costs - 2 years to complete

Arrowrock Dam - raise again (5 feet earlier)

Lake Lowell - Has oldest water right after irrigation season

Raise ??? - could gain 30,000 to 40,000 acre feet storage

Pumping plants - from Snake Rive to Lake Lowell in exchange for Arrowrock water.

Future sites:

Moore's Hollow

Twin Springs

Boise Valley Water Study:

Three year study - legal issues surround it.

Sediment study:

Lost 35,000 acre feet at Arrowrock

Lost 20,000 acre feet at Anderson Ranch

Lost 20,000 at Lake Lowell

Black Canyon - has lost 2/3 of storage capacity

Urbanization: 1939-1995 - 35,000 acres urbanized

Lake Lowell added 35,000 acres

Boise Project authorized for 100,000 acres, built for 160,000 acres.

Same amount of water being diverted, possibly different uses.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Darrell Bolz

Acting Secretary